



# European Washington File

## Public Affairs Section

### Embassy of the United States, Stockholm, Sweden

Wednesday, January 14, 2004

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## **U.N. to Discuss Future Role in Iraq with Iraqi, CPA Officials**

*(Negroponte calls coming discussions "a step forward")*

By Judy Aita

Washington File United Nations Correspondent

United Nations -- U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte said January 14 that he sees the coming meeting of officials from the United Nations, Iraq's Governing Council and the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) as a "step forward" in the return of the United Nations to Iraq.

"I think it's a sign that the United Nations is taking a hard look at some of the practicalities of re-engaging in Iraq," said Negroponte, the chief U.S. envoy to the United Nations.

"I look at this meeting ... as a step forward towards the re-engagement of the United Nations in Iraq," Negroponte said. "And by having the dialogue at such a high level, I think that that augers well for the prospects of moving this issue forward."

Secretary General Kofi Annan will meet on January 19 with Adnan Pachachi, president of Iraq's Governing Council, and other Iraqi officials along with representatives of the United State-led CPA on the future role of the United Nations in Iraq.

Negroponte said he did not expect the meeting to yield any concrete results or decisions on exactly when the United Nations will return to Iraq and in what role. Instead, he said, "it will be an opportunity for a thorough review of the bidding by some of the principal actors involved."

The United States has not made a final decision on who will represent the United States in the talks, the ambassador said.

The United States will be "appropriately represented but we have not made any final decisions as to who will lead our delegation or whom the participants will be," Negroponte told journalists after a private Security Council meeting on Iraq's request to meet with council members as well on January 19.

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Council President Ambassador Heraldo Munoz of Chile announced that the secretary general and the Iraqi delegation will be invited to a private meeting at 5 p.m. to brief the 15-member Security Council on what transpired during the day-long talks.

In another development, the United Nations has informed the United States that it would like to send a team of two military and two security experts to Baghdad to review security issues in order to prepare for the eventual return of the United Nations staff to Iraq. The team would leave for Iraq within two weeks.

"The return to Iraq of U.N. international staff is contingent on acquiring and upgrading suitable working and living accommodations and enhancing security arrangements," Undersecretary General Kieran Prendergast said in a letter to Negroponte, asking for U.S. assistance for the team.

Negroponte said that the United States has "responded affirmatively to that request."

"We are favorably disposed and want to respond as positively as we can to that query," the ambassador said.

Prendergast also met with members of the U.S. National Security Council, the State Department and the Defense Department on January 13 to discuss the handover of power to Iraqis by June 30.

The secretary general withdrew all U.N. international staff from Iraq after the bombing of U.N. headquarters in Baghdad in August 2003. Annan has said that security concerns will be a major consideration in his decision whether or when to send U.N. staff back into the country and he will be weighing whether the substance of the U.N. role is proportionate to the risks.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

## **Transcript: Another Coalition Most-Wanted Fugitive Captured in Iraq**

*(Coalition Provisional Authority briefing January 14)*

U.S. military forces in Iraq have captured another of their "most wanted" ex-regime officials, said Brigadier General Mark Kimmitt January 14.

Kimmitt, deputy director of coalition military operations in Iraq, announced at a Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) briefing in Baghdad that Khamis Sirhan al-Muhammad, who was listed as number 54 in the coalition's "top 55" members of Saddam Hussein's regime, was captured on January 11 near Ar Ramadi.

"Khamis was captured as a result of a combined operation by the 82nd Airborne Division and Special Operations Forces," Kimmitt said. He called it "another significant step in reducing anti-coalition resistance. He was an enabler for many of the resistance attacks on Iraqis as well as U.S. and coalition forces."

Kimmitt also said that coalition forces in Samarra had captured four relatives of Izzat Ibrahim al-Douri, number 6 on the coalition's list and the highest-ranking of those not yet killed or captured. The four have been detained for questioning, he said, but al-Douri "was not anywhere in the area at the time of the capture."

During the question-and-answer part of the briefing, Kimmitt was asked for an update on the Iraqi civilians who were killed in Baghdad January 12 while following a U.S. military convoy moving through the city. The questioner said eyewitnesses said they had seen "soldiers firing at innocent civilians." Kimmitt said that an investigation is being carried out by the U.S. Army's 1st Armored Division, and that the division's surgeon had examined the bodies of the victims. It is the surgeon's opinion "that these persons were not shot," Kimmitt said. "[T]here was no presence of bullets, either in the bodies or in the immediate area. And it is [the surgeon's] medical conclusion at this point that this was done by shrapnel wounds that emanated from an IED [improvised explosive device] at the location."

**Full transcript is available at**

<http://www.usemb.se/wireless/300/index.htm>

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## **Transcript: Bush Welcomes President Aznar of Spain to White House**

*(Brief remarks before meeting January 14, prior to dinner hosted by Bush)*

President Bush welcomed Jose Maria Aznar, president of the government of Spain, to the White House January 14, saying "we have worked together to spread freedom. And the world is more peaceful today because of the decisions we jointly made."

The two spoke briefly with reporters prior to their meeting and to a dinner for Aznar hosted by Bush.

"I am a friend of the United States now, and I will continue to be a friend of the United States in the future," said Aznar. "I consider that, at present, the relationship between Spain and the United States is closer and tighter than it has ever been."

Aznar has announced that he will leave office ahead of a general election which will take place on March 14.

Following is a transcript of their remarks:

(begin transcript)

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary  
January 14, 2004

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT BUSH AND  
PRESIDENT AZNAR OF SPAIN BEFORE  
MEETING

The Oval Office  
6:28 p.m. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Bienvenidos a mi amigo, a friend of mine, a friend of our country, a person who I admire a lot. This is a happy moment and a sad moment. It's happy to be with President Aznar. It is sad to realize this will be the last time he'll come to the Oval Office as the leader of Spain.

I say, sad, because our time together has been very productive for the people of America, and I believe, the people of Spain and the people of the world. We have worked together to spread freedom. And the world is more peaceful today because of the decisions we jointly made.

However, this is not the last time I will see the President. I am confident that the friendship we have made will last beyond our -- my time in office and his time in office. I look back -- I look forward to welcoming him back to America as a non-President. We'll be members of the ex-President's club.

And so, Mr. President, I'm really glad you're here. I look forward to having dinner with you tonight, and your great wife. And again, in front of these cameras, I want to thank you for your steadfast leadership, for your courage, for your wisdom and your advice.

PRESIDENT AZNAR: (Remarks spoken in Spanish.)

PRESIDENT BUSH: Thank you all.

Q: Translation?

PRESIDENT BUSH: He doesn't need to translate for me. I understood every word. (Laughter.)

PRESIDENT AZNAR: (As translated.) Good evening, everyone. I want to thank President Bush once again for this very warm welcome, for the invitation, for his hospitality. For me, it is a satisfaction and an honor to be here with him again. I consider him a very good friend. He has been my friend during my time as President of the government of Spain, and I will continue to consider him my friend afterwards.

And a friend -- I am a friend of the United States now, and I will continue to be a friend of the United States in the future. I consider that, at present, the relationship between Spain and the United States is closer and tighter than it has ever been.

I will continue to work to do everything to strengthen the relationship, the Atlantic link. I will work for freedom, for human rights, for democracy,

for stability, prosperity around the world. And I know that President Bush will be able to count upon me to continue working in that direction. So I will continue to work for the world and for the relationship between the United States and Spain.

PRESIDENT BUSH: Adios.

6:34 P.M. EST

(end transcript)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

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### **Text: U.S. Welcomes Libya's Commitments to Ban Nuclear, Chemical Weapons**

*(State Department confirms Libya's ratification of U.N. treaties in January)*

Following is the text of an answer to a question raised at the daily State Department briefing concerning Libya's ratification of the U.N. Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and the U.N. Chemical Weapons Convention:

(begin text)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Office of the Spokesman  
January 14, 2004

### **QUESTION TAKEN AT JANUARY 14, 2004 DAILY PRESS BRIEFING**

**LIBYA: Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and the Chemical Weapons Convention**

**Question:** Did Libya ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and the Chemical Weapons Convention?

**Answer:** The UN Legal Office formally confirmed on Monday, January 12 that Libya's instrument of accession to the Chemical Weapons Convention was deposited on January 6. Under the terms of the treaty, Libya will become a member of the

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons after 30 days.

The United Nations announced that Libya also ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty on January 6th.

We welcome these positive developments.

(end text)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.  
Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

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### **Text: State Department on U.S. Air Base in Incirlik, Turkey**

*(Question taken at January 14 regular daily briefing)*

Following is the text of a question taken at the January 14, 2004 regular State Department briefing; an answer was posted later in the day:

(begin text)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Office of the Spokesman  
January 14, 2004

Question Taken at the January 14, 2004 Daily Press Briefing

#### **U.S. AIR BASE IN INCIRLIK, TURKEY**

Question: Has the United States signed a new agreement with Turkey concerning the use of Incirlik air base?

Answer: There is no new agreement. We have had arrangements with Turkey for the use of Incirlik for many years. We believe those arrangements are good for the United States and good for Turkey, and we would like them to continue. Our operations are consistent with international law, Turkish sovereignty, and our longstanding agreements such as the NATO Status of Forces Agreement of 1951.

(end text)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.  
Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

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### **Transcript: U.S. Donors Purchase Mine Detection Dogs for Sri Lanka**

*(State's Bloomfield pledges continued U.S. global efforts to remove mines)*

Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs Lincoln Bloomfield Jr. announced the donation of six mine detecting dogs to the Sri Lankan government, thanks to contributions from corporate and private U.S. donors.

At a ceremony held at the State Department in Washington January 14, Bloomfield said the six dogs, valued at \$120,000, will "accelerate the rate at which mined areas in Sri Lanka can be identified, demarcated, cleared, and double-checked to ensure that deadly persistent landmines ... really have been cleared."

The assistant secretary thanked the Marshall Legacy Institute for its role in inspiring U.S. businesses, Sri Lankan expatriates, schoolchildren and others to contribute the funds for the purchase of the dogs, whose track record against landmines, he said, "is extraordinary."

"Lives will be saved. Displaced persons will return home. Fields will be replanted. Stability will be reinforced. And peace will be strengthened. What a great reward for all your efforts," Bloomfield told the assembled donors.

Bloomfield also outlined the U.S. government's support for humanitarian mine action programs, and said it has invested over \$700 million towards mine action around the world since the State Department established the U.S. Humanitarian Mine Action Program in 1993.

The mine action program, one of the world's largest, invests in mine clearance operations, mine risk

education, and provides assistance to landmine victims, he said.

"Working with them, with all of you, and we hope with still more such partners in the future, we pledge to continue the vital work around the world to make the world mine-safe," said Bloomfield.

**Full transcript is available at**  
<http://www.usemb.se/wireless/300/index.htm>

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## **U.S. Trade Gap Narrows As Exports Reach Record Levels**

*(Falling dollar helps boost overseas sales)*

By Andrzej S Zwanecki  
 Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The U.S. trade deficit fell in November as exports hit a three-year high and imports dropped for the first time since August.

The trade gap narrowed by 8.6 percent to \$38 billion -- the lowest level since October 2002 -- from a revised figure of \$41.6 billion in October, according to figures released by the Commerce Department.

Exports jumped by 2.8 percent to \$90.6 billion, the highest level since January 2001, mostly on strong overseas sales of civilian aircraft and consumer goods such as pharmaceuticals, artworks and antiques.

U.S. exports, which had risen steadily since May 2003, have been helped by the weaker dollar and a pick-up in economic activity overseas.

However, the total January-November trade deficit of \$446.8 billion indicates that figures for the entire year will show another record-breaking trade gap for 2003. In 2002, the deficit amounted to \$418 billion.

A \$1.0 billion drop in imports to \$128.6 from an October record monthly high of \$129.7 billion reflected lower U.S. demand for energy products, particularly oil, and consumer goods such as apparel,

household goods, and toys, games and sporting goods.

Making up the overall deficit were a deficit in goods of \$43.6 billion -- a \$3.5 billion increase from the previous month -- and a surplus in services of \$5.6 billion, a \$0.1 billion increase from October.

The trade in goods deficit with China -- the largest contributor to the overall U.S. deficit -- fell to \$10.8 billion from a record of \$13.6 billion in October as imports from that country plunged to \$14.1 billion from \$16.4 billion, a 14 percent drop from October. The deficits with two other major U.S. trading partners, the European Union and Japan, also declined by wide margins to \$7.3 billion from \$8.7 billion -- a 16 percent decline -- and to \$5.7 billion from \$6.4 billion -- a 11 percent decline -- respectively.

Following are some key figures:

**U.S. GOODS AND SERVICES EXPORTS, IMPORTS AND TRADE BALANCE**  
 Millions of dollars, on a balance of payments basis, seasonally adjusted

	Trade balance	Exports	Imports
Jan.-Dec. 2001	-357,819	1,007,580	1,365,399
Jan.-Dec. 2002	-418,038	974,107	1,392,145
Jan.-Nov. 2002	-375,702	893,032	1,268,734
Jan.-Nov. 2003	-446,813	928,128	1,374,940
November 2002	-38,629	82,917	121,545
November 2003	-38,010	90,633	128,643

**U.S. GOODS EXPORTS, IMPORTS AND TRADE BALANCE**  
 Millions of dollars, on a balance of payments basis, seasonally adjusted

Trade

	balance	Exports	Imports				
Jan.-Dec. 2001	-427,215		718,712	Western Europe	-7,833		14,699
1,145,927				22,532			
Jan.-Dec. 2002	-482,872		681,874	Euro Area	-6,006	10,154	16,160
1,164,746				European Union	-7,354		13,403
				20,757			
Jan.-Nov. 2002	-435,425		626,100	Austria	-256	133	389
1,061,525				Belgium	474	1,251	776
Jan.- Nov. 2003	-501,153		650,785	Finland	-97	186	283
1,151,937				France	-1,174	1,417	2,591
				Germany	-3,508	2,470	5,978
November 2002	-44,147		57,765	Italy	-1,131	1,017	2,148
101,911				Netherlands	1,151	2,089	938
November 2003	-43,605		63,816	Spain	103	680	578
107,421				Sweden	-618	268	887
				United Kingdom	-582	2,807	3,389
				Other EU	-1,717	1,084	2,801
U.S. SERVICES EXPORTS, IMPORTS AND TRADE BALANCE				European Free Trade			
Millions of dollars, on a balance of payments basis, seasonally adjusted				Association	-477	907	1,384
				Norway	-195	158	354
				Switzerland	-272	707	979
				Other EFTA	-10	41	51
	Trade balance	Exports	Imports	Other Western Eur.	-2	389	391
Jan.-Dec. 2001	69,396	288,868	219,472	Eastern Europe, Former			
Jan.-Dec. 2002	64,834	292,233	227,399	Soviet Reps.	-614	695	1,310
				Hungary	-112	122	235
Jan.- Nov. 2002	59,723		266,932	Poland	-46	72	118
207,209				Former Sov. Reps.	-319	344	663
Jan.- Nov. 2003	54,340		277,343	Russia	-304	196	500
223,003				Other FSR	-15	148	163
				Other Eastern Europe	-137	158	294
November 2002	5,518		25,152	Pacific Rim	-19,615	17,067	36,682
19,634				Australia	481	1,034	553
November 2003	5,595		26,817	China	-10,818	3,324	14,142
21,222				Japan	-5,728	4,488	10,216
U.S. GOODS EXPORTS, IMPORTS AND TRADE BALANCE, BY COUNTRY				Newly Industrialized			
Millions of dollars, on a Census basis, not seasonally adjusted				Countries	-1,580	6,176	7,756
				Hong Kong	498	1,193	695
				South Korea	-1,197	2,199	3,396
				Singapore	215	1,278	1,063
	Bilateral balance	November exports	November imports	Taiwan	-1,095	1,506	2,601
				Other Pacific Rim	-1,970	2,046	4,016
Total	-41,588	64,496	106,083	South/Central America	-1,677		4,658
North America	-7,249	23,334	30,584	6,335			
Canada	-4,226	14,663	18,889	Argentina	-24	233	257
Mexico	-3,023	8,671	11,694	Brazil	-391	933	1,384
				Colombia	-181	313	494

Other S/C America	-1,082		3,118
4,200			
OPEC	-3,919	1,508	5,427
Indonesia	-523	246	769
Nigeria	-505	86	590
Saudi Arabia	-995	349	1,344
Venezuela	-1,189	346	1,536
Other OPEC	-706	481	1,187
Other countries	-2,455	3,064	5,519
Egypt	123	215	92
South Africa	-11	314	325
Other	-2,567	2,535	5,102

NOTE: Data on a Census basis reflect movement of goods into and out of the United States through U.S. Customs Service stations. Balance-of-payments basis data adjust Census data to include products that bypass Customs, such as exports of military aircraft and imports of electricity from Canada.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

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### **Transcript: White House Daily Briefing, January 14, 2004**

*(NASA/space program, Spain/Aznar visit, Federal Communications Commission, former Treasury Secretary O'Neill, Iraq, Summit of the Americas, Welfare Reform Authorization Act)*

White House Spokesman Scott McClellan briefed the media January 14 at the White House briefing room.

Following is the transcript of the briefing:

(begin transcript)

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary  
January 14, 2004

PRESS BRIEFING BY SCOTT McCLELLAN

### INDEX

- Space program
- Aznar visit
- FCC
- Former Treasury Secretary O'Neill
- Iraq
- Summit of the Americas
- Welfare Reform Authorization Act

### THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary  
January 14, 2004

### PRESS BRIEFING BY SCOTT McCLELLAN

The James S. Brady Briefing Room

12:41 P.M. EST

MR. McCLELLAN: Good afternoon, let's get started. The President this afternoon looks forward to going to NASA headquarters. The President is strongly committed to the exploration of space. Our space program has a proud history of expanding human knowledge and advancing technology for the benefit of all. Our history is one that is built on our desire to pursue new frontiers and seek new discoveries. And today the President will set a new course for America's space program that will give NASA a new focus and long-term vision for future exploration and discovery. It will focus on a renewed spirit of discovery.

The President will talk about a new plan to explore space and extend a human presence across our solar system. This new plan will give NASA a new focus and clear objectives as it pursues this long-term vision.

We have had great successes in our space program, yet there is much that remains for us to explore and learn. And the President will also talk about how the long-term vision he outlines today for further exploration of space is a journey, not a race anymore, that we want to pursue together with other nations in a spirit of cooperation and friendship.

Then later this evening, the President looks forward to welcoming President Aznar of Spain back to the White House. Spain is a -- President Aznar is a

good friend of the President's and Spain is certainly a close ally of America, and we are working together closely on a number of issues, ranging from cooperation with Europe to the greater Middle East to Latin America, to counterterrorism and to our counter-proliferation efforts. And so the President looks forward to hosting him this evening in a meeting and then participating in a social dinner with the President of Spain.

**Full transcript is available at**  
**<http://www.usemb.se/wireless/300/index.htm>**

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**Transcript: State Department Noon Briefing,  
January 14, 2004**

*(North Korea, Monterrey Summit of the Americas, Bolivia, Venezuela, Haiti,  
Iraq, Israel/Palestinians, Turkey, Sudan, Libya, Iran, Syria/Israel)*

State Department Spokesman Richard Boucher briefed reporters January 14.

Following is the transcript of the State Department briefing:

(begin transcript)

U.S. Department of State  
Daily Press Briefing Index  
Wednesday, January 14, 2004  
12:20 p.m. EST

BRIEFER: Richard Boucher, Spokesman

**NORTH KOREA**

- Visit of U.S. Delegation
- Kelly's Meeting with Chinese DG Fu Ying and South Korean DG Wi Sung-lac
- Deputy Secretary Armitage's Meeting with Chinese DG Fu Ying
- Discussions about Six Party Talks
- Assistant Secretary Kelly's Meeting with the Japanese

**WESTERN HEMISPHERE**

- Monterrey Summit of the Americas

**BOLIVIA**

- President Bush's Bilateral Meeting

**VENEZUELA**

- Comments by President Chavez on U.S. Policy on Referendum
- Signing of Declaration by Venezuelan President

**HAITI**

- Secretary Powell and President Bush's Meeting with CARICOM
- Attacks on Radio Outlets

**IRAQ**

- U.S. Plan for Moving the Political Process Forward/November 15 Plan
- Role of Ambassador Frank Ricciardone/Iraq Transition
- Status of U.S.-Iraq Treaties
- Sistani Views on Political Transition
- UN Meetings
- Ambassador Burns Travel

**ISRAEL/PALESTINIANS**

- Need for an End to Violence/Vision of Two-State Solution
- Condemnation of Today's Attack Killing Israelis

**TURKEY**

- Troop Rotation/Incirlik Airbase

**SUDAN**

- Peace Negotiations/Senator Danforth Efforts

**LIBYA**

- Verification and Elimination of Weapons Programs
- Signing of Nuclear Test Ban Treaty

**IRAN**

- Suspension of Uranium Enrichment and Reprocessing Activities
- Guardian Council Decision to Disqualify Members of Parliament

**SYRIA/ISRAEL**

- Peace Talks Between Syria and Israel

**Full transcript is available at**  
**<http://www.usemb.se/wireless/300/index.htm>**

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## **Transcript: Bush Announces New Course for U.S. Space Program**

*(Calls for human missions to moon as early as 2015)*

President Bush -- announcing a new plan to explore space and extend a human presence across the solar system -- has called for establishment of a permanent base on the moon no later than 2020, followed by human missions to Mars and worlds beyond.

In a speech delivered January 14 at the headquarters of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in Washington, Bush noted that no human being has set foot on another world in the past 30 years and said that it was time to set a new course for America's space program.

"We'll build new ships to carry man forward into the universe, to gain a new foothold on the moon, and to prepare for new journeys to the worlds beyond our own," he said.

The president said his plan for steady human and robotic exploration of the solar system has several goals. The first goal is for the United States to complete its work on the orbiting International Space Station by 2010 -- fulfilling its commitment to the 15 partner countries involved in the project. To meet this goal, he said, the space shuttle will be returned to flight as soon as safely possible, following the disintegration of the shuttle Columbia last February 1. The disaster forced the grounding of the three remaining shuttles. Bush added, however, that the shuttle fleet would be retired from service in 2010 after nearly 30 years of service.

Second, Bush called for a new spacecraft, the Crew Exploration Vehicle (CEV), to be tested and developed by 2008 and to be launched on its first manned mission no later than 2014. Bush said the CEV -- which would be a 21st-century version of the Apollo rocket and capsule that carried American astronauts to the moon -- will be capable of transporting astronauts to the space station after the shuttle is retired and eventually carrying astronauts "beyond our orbit to other worlds."

Bush said the third goal was to return to the moon no later than 2020, using the moon as a launching point for missions to Mars and other planets. He said a series of robotic missions to the moon, similar to the U.S. spacecraft Spirit Rover that recently landed on Mars to search for signs of life, will explore the lunar surface beginning no later than 2008. Humans will then conduct extended lunar missions, perhaps as early as 2015, using the CEV, with the goal of living and working there for increasingly extended periods.

Funding for the exploration effort will total \$12 billion over the next five years, Bush said. While most of the funding will come from the reallocation of \$11 billion that is currently within NASA's five-year total budget of \$86 billion, the president said, he added that he will request an additional \$1 billion for NASA spread over the five-year period. Funding of the proposal is subject to approval by Congress.

**Full transcript is available at**  
**<http://www.usemb.se/wireless/300/index.htm>**

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## **Byliner: Facts Show U.S. Vigilance**

*(Op-ed column from USA Today)*

(This byliner by Mark Corallo, director of public affairs for the U.S. Department of Justice, first appeared in USA Today January 14, 2004, and is in the public domain. No republication restrictions.)

(begin byliner)

Facts Show U.S. Vigilance  
By Mark Corallo

Under President Bush's leadership of Project Safe Neighborhoods, gun-crime prosecutions have reached record levels. At the same time, the violent crime rate has plunged 21%. That's what makes some recent criticism surprising. Consider: Federal gun-crime prosecutions increased 68% in the past three years. Last year, the Justice Department set a new record by charging 23% more individuals for violating gun laws.

We're also shutting down and prosecuting corrupt gun dealers in higher numbers. Since 2000, the number of dealers charged with violating gun laws has risen 150% and cases brought against dealers have nearly tripled. More than 100 dealers have had their licenses revoked in recent years, and many more surrendered their licenses or closed their doors after our inspections.

Just last month, Attorney General John Ashcroft announced indictments against several individuals allegedly involved in a straw-purchasing and gun-trafficking pipeline that led from a gun dealer in Ohio to a violent street gang several states away. This is just one of many cases showing the Justice Department's aggressive targeting of those who illegally market guns to criminals.

This apparently hasn't registered with the Americans for Gun Safety Foundation (AGSF). It relied on out-of-date and incomplete information to draw conclusions that the evidence just doesn't support about gun traces and this administration's prosecutions of gun crimes. Firearms licensees who have guns traced back to them have not necessarily broken the law. Basic math explains that those who sell more guns and those located in or near high-crime neighborhoods, or where police trace all crime guns in their custody, will have a higher number of traces.

The most common way criminals get firearms is through straw purchases - a "legitimate buyer" obtaining guns for someone who can't legally do it himself - rather than from dealers. That's why we aggressively pursue and prosecute these criminals. Also, AGSF completely ignores the fact that more than 95% of gun prosecutions are handled by state and local law enforcement agencies.

By focusing on straw purchasers and dealers of particular concern, the Bush administration is targeting its resources on one mission: keeping guns out of the hands of criminals. It's a priority we take seriously - one the facts show is being accomplished.

(Mark Corallo is director of public affairs for the U.S. Department of Justice.)

(end byliner)

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Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

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### **Fact Sheet: Bush Proposes New U.S. Missions to Moon, Mars**

*(Space exploration called an investment in the future)*

President Bush January 14 unveiled a plan for long-range space exploration by both human astronauts and robotic probes, aimed toward the Moon, Mars and beyond. He set a goal of a return to the Moon by astronauts by 2015.

The President proposed funding increases of \$12 billion over five years to achieve these goals -- a proposal subject to approval by Congress.

The following is a White House fact sheet on the space proposals:

(begin fact sheet)

#### **THE WHITE HOUSE**

Office of the Press Secretary

January 14, 2004

#### **A Renewed Spirit of Discovery**

#### **Today's Presidential Action**

Today, President Bush announced a new vision for the Nation's space exploration program. The President committed the United States to a long-term human and robotic program to explore the solar system, starting with a return to the Moon that will ultimately enable future exploration of Mars and other destinations.

The President's vision affirms our Nation's commitment to manned space exploration. It gives NASA a new focus and clear objectives. It will be affordable and sustainable while maintaining the highest levels of safety.

The benefits of space technology are far-reaching and affect the lives of every American. Space exploration has yielded advances in communications, weather forecasting, electronics, and countless other fields. For example, image processing technologies used in lifesaving CAT Scanners and MRIs trace their origins to technologies engineered for use in space.

#### Background on Today's Presidential Action

America's history is built on a desire to open new frontiers and to seek new discoveries. Exploration, like investments in other Federal science and technology activities, is an investment in our future. President Bush is committed to a long-term space exploration program benefiting not only scientific research, but also the lives of all Americans. The exploration vision also has the potential to drive innovation, development, and advancement in the aerospace and other high-technology industries. The President's vision for exploration will not require large budget increases in the near term. Instead, it will bring about a sustained focus over time and a reorientation of NASA's programs.

-- NASA spends, and will continue to spend, less than 1 percent of the Federal budget. Our Nation's investment in space is reasonable for a tremendously promising program of discovery and exploration that historically has resulted in concrete benefits as well as inspiring Americans and people throughout the world.

#### -- President Bush's Vision for U.S. Space Exploration

The President's plan for steady human and robotic space exploration is based on the following goals:

-- First, America will complete its work on the International Space Station by 2010, fulfilling our commitment to our 15 partner countries. The United States will launch a re-focused research effort on board the International Space Station to better understand and overcome the effects of human space flight on astronaut health, increasing the safety of future space missions.

-- To accomplish this goal, NASA will return the Space Shuttle to flight consistent with safety

concerns and the recommendations of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board. The Shuttle's chief purpose over the next several years will be to help finish assembly of the Station, and the Shuttle will be retired by the end of this decade after nearly 30 years of service.

-- Second, the United States will begin developing a new manned exploration vehicle to explore beyond our orbit to other worlds -- the first of its kind since the Apollo Command Module. The new spacecraft, the Crew Exploration Vehicle, will be developed and tested by 2008 and will conduct its first manned mission no later than 2014. The Crew Exploration Vehicle will also be capable of transporting astronauts and scientists to the International Space Station after the Shuttle is retired.

-- Third, America will return to the Moon as early as 2015 and no later than 2020 and use it as a stepping stone for more ambitious missions. A series of robotic missions to the Moon, similar to the Spirit Rover that is sending remarkable images back to Earth from Mars, will explore the lunar surface beginning no later than 2008 to research and prepare for future human exploration. Using the Crew Exploration Vehicle, humans will conduct extended lunar missions as early as 2015, with the goal of living and working there for increasingly extended periods.

-- The extended human presence on the Moon will enable astronauts to develop new technologies and harness the Moon's abundant resources to allow manned exploration of more challenging environments. An extended human presence on the Moon could reduce the costs of further exploration, since lunar-based spacecraft could escape the Moon's lower gravity using less energy at less cost than Earth-based vehicles. The experience and knowledge gained on the Moon will serve as a foundation for human missions beyond the Moon, beginning with Mars.

-- NASA will increase the use of robotic exploration to maximize our understanding of the solar system and pave the way for more ambitious manned missions. Probes, landers, and similar unmanned vehicles will serve as trailblazers and send vast amounts of knowledge back to scientists on Earth.

### Key Points on the President's FY 2005 Budget

-- The funding added for exploration will total \$12 billion over the next five years. Most of this added funding for new exploration will come from reallocation of \$11 billion that is currently within the five-year total NASA budget of \$86 billion.

-- In the Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 budget, the President will request an additional \$1 billion to NASA's existing five-year plan, or an average of \$200 million per year.

-- From 1992 to 2000, NASA's budget decreased by a total of 5 percent. Since the year 2000, NASA's budget has increased by approximately 3 percent per year.

-- From the current 2004 level of \$15.4 billion, the President's proposal will increase NASA's budget by an average of 5 percent per year over the next three years, and at approximately 1 percent or less per year for the two years after those.

### President's Commission on the Implementation of U.S. Space Exploration Policy

To ensure that NASA maintains a sense of focus and direction toward accomplishing this new mission, the President has directed NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe to review all current space flight and exploration and direct them toward the President's goals. The President also formed a Commission on the Implementation of U.S. Space Exploration Policy to advise NASA on the long-term implementation of the President's vision.

### Space Technology Affects the Lives of Every American

More than 1,300 NASA and other U.S. space technologies have contributed to U.S. industry, improving our quality of life and helping save lives.

-- Image processing used in CAT Scanners and MRI technology in hospitals worldwide came from technology developed to computer-enhanced pictures of the Moon for the Apollo programs.

-- Kidney dialysis machines were developed as a result of a NASA-developed chemical process, and

insulin pumps were based on technology used on the Mars Viking spacecraft.

-- Programmable Heart Pacemakers were first developed in the 1970s using NASA satellite electrical systems.

-- Fetal heart monitors were developed from technology originally used to measure airflow over aircraft wings.

-- Surgical probes used to treat brain tumors in children resulted from special lighting technology developed for plant growth experiments on Space Shuttle missions.

-- Infrared hand-held cameras used to observe blazing plumes from the Shuttle have helped firefighters point out hot spots in brush fires.

-- Satellite communications allow news organizations to provide live, on-the-spot broadcasting from anywhere in the world; families and businesses to stay in touch using cellphone networks; and the simple pleasures of satellite TV and radio, and the convenience of ATMs across the country and around the world.

(end fact sheet)

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Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

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### **Transcript: Senior U.S. Officials Hail Results of Monterrey Summit**

*(Cite commitments to address crucial issues in the Americas)*

The just-concluded Special Summit of the Americas proved successful in committing leaders of the Western Hemisphere to address important issues of the region, say senior Bush administration officials.

In a background briefing held at the end of the January 12-13 Special Summit in Monterrey, Mexico, the officials said hemispheric leaders committed themselves to invest in people, promote

private sector-led growth to create jobs and reduce poverty, and promote democracy, good governance, and anti-corruption measures.

Those issues, said the administration officials, represent the three "pillars" of the Millennium Challenge Initiative that President Bush proposed at a previous meeting in Monterrey at the 2002 United Nations Conference on Financing for Development.

The Millennium Challenge, the officials said, is designed to put U.S. foreign assistance to work in those countries that enact policies that are proven to lead to government transparency, economic growth, poverty alleviation, and improvements in the quality of health care and education.

One important outcome from the Special Summit, the officials said, is that hemispheric leaders reaffirmed their commitment to complete negotiations on the Free Trade Area of the Americas by the scheduled deadline of January 2005. Hemispheric leaders also noted the importance of making progress in the Doha Round of the World Trade Organization negotiations, the Bush administration officials said.

Another crucial issue addressed at the Summit was the "terrible" effect that HIV/AIDS is having in Caribbean nations and in Central America, the officials said. They said President Bush underscored in Monterrey his own emergency plan for AIDS relief, highlighted by \$15 billion that the United States will spend over the next five years on that problem, with Haiti and Guyana among the countries where the money will be spent.

The president, said the officials, committed himself to working hard to ensure that anti-retroviral drugs are available at a reasonable price. But the officials said that it is up to the leaders in the Caribbean and Latin America to ensure that the anti-retroviral drugs get to the people who need them.

Hemispheric leaders also stated in Monterrey their commitment to attacking corruption, a problem which the U.S. officials said undermines public confidence in the institutions of democracy, and acts as a "drag" on economic growth. Bringing about a hemispheric-wide pledge to fight corruption

is a "huge step forward" for the Americas and for any region in the world, the officials said.

**Full transcript is available at**

**<http://www.usemb.se/wireless/300/index.htm>**

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### **Text: NGO Calls on Uzbekistan to Release Imprisoned Rights Defender**

*(Human Rights Watch: "Soviet-era sodomy law used to retaliate against dissenter")*

"The Uzbek government should immediately release independent journalist and human rights defender Ruslan Sharipov," the New York-based human rights advocacy organization Human Rights Watch said January 14.

The concerns outlined by Human Rights Watch echo those expressed by U.S. officials about Sharipov, whose May 29, 2003, arrest followed his speaking out against government corruption and human rights abuses.

U.S. Ambassador Stephan Minikes told the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna October 2, 2003: "Like others, we harbor concerns that the case against Mr. Sharipov is politically motivated. The repetitive coincidence of journalists being convicted of criminal acts creates a suspicious rhythm, which we cannot ignore."

"In a letter smuggled out of prison, Sharipov confirmed that he was tortured," Human Rights Watch noted. The New-York based Committee to Protect Journalists has also stated its concerns about the torture Sharipov cited in his letter.

Human Rights Watch is calling for the repeal of the law under which Sharipov was originally taken into custody: Article 120, a Soviet law dating from the period of Stalin banning adult consensual homosexual conduct, noting that "Article 120 violates basic human rights enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which Uzbekistan ratified in 1996."

Following is a Human Rights Watch press release:

(begin text)

Human Rights Watch  
New York, New York  
January 14, 2004

## UZBEKISTAN: RELEASE IMPRISONED RIGHTS DEFENDER

### Soviet-Era Sodomy Law Used to Retaliate Against Dissenter

(New York, January 14, 2004) - The Uzbek government should immediately release independent journalist and human rights defender Ruslan Sharipov, Human Rights Watch said today. Human Rights Watch also called on Uzbekistan to repeal the law against consensual, adult homosexual conduct, which the government used to imprison Sharipov.

"Ruslan Sharipov is in prison for speaking out against government corruption and human rights abuses," said Rachel Denber, acting executive director of Human Rights Watch's Europe and Central Asia Division. "His continued imprisonment is a disgrace."

Last year, the Uzbek government released four other imprisoned human rights defenders. In December, however, the government dashed hopes that it would release Sharipov under a presidential amnesty, despite international pressure to do so. Yesterday marked the five-month anniversary of his conviction.

Sharipov was arrested on May 29. During the first days of his detention, arresting officers threatened Sharipov with physical violence, including rape with a bottle. In a letter smuggled out of prison, Sharipov confirmed that he was tortured. Until his trial on August 8, Sharipov had strenuously denied all charges. At the trial, however, Sharipov waived his right to counsel, declared his intention to plead guilty on all charges, and asked that the only outside observer to the proceedings - his mother - be removed from the courtroom, all of which gave rise to fears that his actions were coerced. Human Rights Watch is calling for an independent review of all the charges against Sharipov.

On August 13, the Tashkent City Court convicted Sharipov on charges of homosexual conduct (article 120 of the Uzbek Criminal Code), sex with a minor (article 128), and involving minors in "antisocial behavior" (article 127) and sentenced him to five and a half years in prison, reduced on appeal in September to four years. Sharipov arrived at that hearing with visible injuries to his face, raising fears that he was beaten in custody. Sharipov remains in prison, where he is at risk of torture and mistreatment.

Last month Human Rights Watch submitted a petition - signed by more than 650 people from around the world - to Uzbek President Islam Karimov, calling for the repeal of article 120.

"This is a Stalin-era sodomy law that provides a means to retaliate against dissenters, to invade the privacy and dignity of adults, and to promote invidious discrimination and hatred," said Denber. "Sharipov's case shows how easily sodomy laws can be used to stigmatize and repress activists."

Article 120 violates basic human rights enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which Uzbekistan ratified in 1996. The United Nations Human Rights Committee, which monitors compliance with the Covenant, has found that laws punishing adult consensual homosexual acts violate the Covenant's guarantees of non-discrimination and privacy and has held that sexual orientation is a status protected from discrimination by articles 2 and 26 of the Covenant.

(end text)

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## **Text: World Bank Supports Export Financing in Turkey**

*(\$303.1 million loan focuses on medium- and long-term funding)*

The World Bank on January 13 approved a \$303.1 million loan to Turkey to help provide medium- and

long-term working capital and investment finance to Turkish exporting enterprises.

The project is expected to lead to a healthier and more developed financial system in Turkey and speed up private sector recovery and the creation of jobs, according to a World Bank press release.

Following is the text:

(begin text)

World Bank  
Washington, D.C.  
[www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)

News Release No:2004/206/ECA

#### **TURKEY: WORLD BANK SUPPORTS SME EXPORT FINANCE**

Ankara, January 13, 2004 - The World Bank approved today a US\$303.1 million Export Finance Intermediation Loan II (EFIL II) for Turkey.

The main objective of the project is to follow through on the achievement of the predecessor EFIL I project that was successfully implemented during 1999-2003 and continues to serve as a catalyst to support export and real sector growth in Turkey. To this end, the project will provide medium and long-term working capital and investment finance to Turkish exporting enterprises. One other main benefit of the project will be fast private sector recovery and job creation, supported by a healthier and more developed financial system.

"The Government's request for an EFIL II credit line for exporters is very timely," said Andrew Vorkink, World Bank Country Director for Turkey. "The project will support the current upward momentum in export performance by both small and medium enterprises and, by extension, promote further general economic growth in Turkey."

EFIL II project has a single component - a credit line for exporters and will provide the medium and long-term funds to exporters through two distinct channels (i) US\$200 million through commercial banks in the form of investment or working capital loans and (ii) US\$100 million through leasing

companies in the form of lease finance for acquisition of productive assets. The credit line will be provided to Turkish Industrial Development Bank - Turkiye Sinai ve Kalkinma Bankasi (TSKB), with a government guarantee.

The Export Finance Intermediation Loan (EFIL II) has a maturity of 16 years, including a 6-year grace period.

For more information about the World Bank's work in Turkey, visit: <http://www.worldbank.org.tr>

For more information about this project, visit: <http://www.worldbank.org/projects>

Contacts:

In Ankara: Tunya Celasin, (90-312) 459 83 43,  
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In Washington: Miriam Van Dyck: 1-202- 458 2931,  
[Mvandyck@worldbank.org](mailto:Mvandyck@worldbank.org)

(end text)

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Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

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#### **Text: Senators Request Tax Information on Muslim Charities for Probe**

*(Possible links between charities, terrorist groups investigated)*

The Senate Finance Committee has asked the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for its records on more than two-dozen Muslim charities and organizations as part of an investigation into possible links between nongovernmental organizations and terrorist financing networks.

"Many of these groups not only enjoy tax-exempt status, but their reputations as charities and foundations often allows them to escape scrutiny, making it easier to hide and move their funds to other groups and individuals who threaten our national security," Committee Chairman Charles Grassley and ranking Democrat Max Baucus said in

a December 22 letter to the IRS, the United States' federal tax-collection agency.

The letter, which was made public in a January 14 Finance Committee news release, includes requests for the organizations' tax returns, donor lists, applications for tax-exempt status, and all materials from examinations, audits and criminal investigations.

An attachment to the letter names 25 specific organizations, including Global Relief Foundation, Benevolence International Foundation, Islamic Association for Palestine and the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development. The senators additionally ask for IRS information on all charities, foundations and tax-exempt organizations that have been designated since September 11, 2001 as having links to terrorist networks by the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC).

Grassley and Baucus asked the IRS to deliver the requested information to the Senate by February 20.

The senators said their request was based on the Finance Committee's status as having "exclusive jurisdiction" in the Senate over tax matters.

Following is the text of the Finance Committee release:

(begin text)

Senate Committee on Finance  
Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2004

Records Sought About Tax-exempt Organizations  
for Committee's Terror Finance Probe

WASHINGTON -- Sen. Chuck Grassley, chairman of the Committee on Finance, and Sen. Max Baucus, ranking member, have asked for information about tax-exempt organizations in connection with a committee investigation into terrorism financing. The Committee on Finance has jurisdiction over tax matters in the Senate.

A copy of the letter follows here.

December 22, 2003

The Honorable Mark Everson  
Commissioner  
Internal Revenue Service  
1111 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20224

Via mail and telefax (202) 622-4733

Dear Commissioner Everson:

The purpose of this letter is to inquire about and conduct oversight on the issue of organizations, particularly tax-exempt organizations such as charities and foundations, which finance terrorism and perpetuate violence.

Many of these groups not only enjoy tax-exempt status, but their reputations as charities and foundations often allows them to escape scrutiny, making it easier to hide and move their funds to other groups and individuals who threaten our national security. This support for the machinery of terrorism not only violates the law and tax regulations, but it violates the trust that citizens have in the large majority of charities, foundations and other groups that do good works in the United States.

Government officials, investigations by federal agencies and the Congress, and other reports have identified the crucial role that charities and foundations play in terror financing. While much attention has been paid to where their money ends up, the source of their funds is equally important. Often these groups are nothing more than shell companies for the same small group of people, moving funds from one charity to the next charity to hide the trail. These groups also receive donations from foreign sources, including countries the government has identified as having a significant problem with terrorism. The federal government and the Congress have identified several countries -- some of which, ostensibly, are our allies -- particularly in the Middle East, as a primary source of funds for charities and foundations that are under investigation or have fallen under suspicion for terrorist financing.

The Senate Finance Committee retains exclusive jurisdiction over tax matters in the Senate. We have

a responsibility to carry out oversight to ensure charities, foundations and other groups are abiding by the laws and regulations, to examine their source of funds, and to ensure government agencies, including the IRS, are policing them and enforcing the law efficiently and effectively.

We ask that you provide copies of all IRS materials - including information protected by Section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code -- for the attached list of charities, foundations, other tax exempt organizations, and other groups. The material should include Form 990s and Form 990 PFs, including the donors list for both types; Form 1023s, the charities' applications for tax exempt status, and any and all materials from examinations, audits and other investigations, including criminal investigations. Pursuant to Internal Revenue Code section 6103(f)

Finance Committee staff -- Dean Zerbe, John Drake, Pat Heck and Matt Stokes -- to review this information.

We would appreciate receiving this material no later than Friday, February 20, 2004. Please have IRS officials contact our staff to arrange the details of delivery. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Grassley  
Chairman

Max Baucus  
Ranking Member

Attachment  
Charities, Foundations, Other Tax-Exempt  
Organizations, and Other Groups

All charities, foundations and tax-exempt organizations, groups or entities who have been designated or listed by the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) from September 11, 2001 to today.

The SAAR Foundation and all members and related entities  
Global Relief Foundation (GRF)  
Benevolence International Foundation (BIF)

Muslim Arab Youth Association (MAYA)  
Muslim Student Association  
Islamic Association for Palestine  
Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development (HLF)  
Muslim World League  
International Islamic Relief Organization (IIRO) or Internal Relief Organization(IRO)  
Al Haramain Foundation  
Alavi Foundation  
Institute of Islamic and Arabic Science in America (IIASA)  
Islamic Assembly of North American  
Help the Needy  
Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA)  
Islamic Foundation of America  
United Association for Studies and Research (USAR)  
Solidarity International and/or Solidarity USA  
Kind Hearts  
Islamic American Relief Agency and/or Islamic African Relief Agency  
Islamic Society of North America  
International Islamic Relief Organization  
World Assembly of Muslim Youth  
Rabita Trust  
Human Appeal International

Some of the charities, foundations, other tax-exempt organizations or groups listed above may be included in the first category of entities listed or designated by OFAC. You do not need to provide duplicate records for these entities.

(end text)

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Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

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### **Transcript: Political Analyst Charles Cook Sees "Big-Issue" Campaign in 2004**

*(Interview on 2004 presidential election campaign prospects)*

Charles E. Cook, Jr., editor and publisher of The Cook Report, is a political analyst for the National Journal Group, and is regarded as one of the

nation's leading authorities on U.S. elections and political trends. Recently, Washington File Staff writer Darlisa Crawford talked to Cook about the 2004 presidential election. He predicts that the upcoming presidential race will be a "big-issue" election with trade, the economy, job growth and the war in Iraq dominating the campaign debate.

This interview also appears in the State Department's new elections newsletter, Election Focus 2004, which can be accessed at: [http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/democracy/elections/elections\\_newsletter.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/democracy/elections/elections_newsletter.html)

A transcript of the interview follows. The opinions expressed are those of the interviewee and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. government.

(begin transcript)

Q: What will be the major issues in the 2004 elections?

A: If I had a choice, if I had to predict whether President Bush was going to get reelected or not, and if I had a choice of knowing either who the Democratic nominee was going to be or how the war in Iraq is doing in the three or four months leading into the election, I'd rather know how the war is doing. I think that's more relevant.

If I had a choice of knowing who the Democratic nominee was going to be or what the economy is looking like in 2004, particularly in the second quarter of 2004-because we know from history that it's the second quarter economic statistics that are the best predictors of how an incumbent president is going to do-I would rather know that, not just what's the gross domestic product growth rate, but also what's the unemployment rate, what's the employment number, and how does that number compare to January 2001, and what's the degree of under-employment of people that have lesser jobs today than two or three or four years ago? I'd like to know that.

And it's not to say that who the Democrats nominate isn't important, because it is, but overwhelmingly we know that when an incumbent president is up for reelection, it's basically a

referendum on the incumbent more than it is a comparison between two candidates. It's "do you believe that this incumbent has performed well enough to deserve reelection; do you have confidence in that incumbent leading us for the next four years?"

And the answers are "yes," "no" and "maybe." If the answer is yes, then the voters do believe that the president deserves reelection and they do have confidence in the president to lead us for the next four years, and then it really doesn't matter who the opponent is.

And conversely, if people have lost confidence in a president, if they don't believe he deserves reelection, they don't have confidence in him to lead us for the next four years, then it almost doesn't matter who the opponent is, either. Any Democrat would have a plausible chance of winning the Democratic nomination, and would be perfectly capable of winning.

It's only if it's in that narrow "maybe" zone, where the voters are not sure if a president deserves reelection; they're not sure they have confidence in the president for the next four years, and only then is the identity and the caliber of the opponent really relevant.

I tend to think that that "maybe" zone in the middle may be where we're headed, because I think it's unlikely that the situation in Iraq will be significantly better. I don't think it's going to be resolved by then. The overall economy may or may not be better, but is the job situation going to be significantly better by then? We don't know that.

Q: How will the Democratic candidates discuss and/or criticize the administration's policy on Iraq after the capture of Saddam?

A: I think this creates a period of time of a month or so where it's going to be awkward for Democrats to attack the president. But I also suspect it's only going to be weeks or a month-not all the way to the election-because these situations tend to have what we call a "short shelf life," where they don't last very long and tend to be overtaken by events.

It also depends on who the Democratic candidate is.

Obviously, if you're Howard Dean and oppose the war completely, your attacks are of one nature.

If you're Joe Lieberman, and were fully supportive of the war, enthusiastic about the war, but have differences with how the president has conducted it, that's very different. And John Kerry and Dick Gephardt are yet different again.

So, it depends on who the Democratic candidate is.

I think what you'll probably see is more Democrats saying that it's great that Saddam Hussein has been captured and brought to justice, and this is a good thing, but that we probably should have waited for greater, more widespread international participation, that we shouldn't have been in such a hurry, and that the whole second phase of the war should have been planned better.

**Full transcript is available at**  
**<http://www.usemb.se/wireless/300/index.htm>**

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## **Overview of the 2004 Presidential Race**

*(Caucuses and primaries begin January 19)*

By Darlisa Crawford  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The 2004 race for the White House begins with the Iowa caucuses on January 19, and then, a little more than a week later the New Hampshire primary on January 27. These initial election events are considered to be the official start to the campaign season, and their outcomes will set the tone for the primaries and caucuses that follow, state by state, until early June. On March 2, "Super Tuesday," 10 states -- California, Connecticut, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island and Vermont -- will hold primary elections or caucuses. Many believe that the eventual Democratic nominee will be known soon after this date. President Bush, running unopposed for the Republican nomination, is certain to be his party's candidate.

This year there are nine Democratic contenders -- former Senator Carol Moseley Braun, former

NATO Supreme Allied Commander General Wesley Clark, former Vermont Governor Howard Dean, Senator John Edwards (North Carolina), Congressman Richard Gephardt (Missouri), Senator John Kerry (Massachusetts), Congressman Dennis Kucinich (Ohio), Senator Joseph Lieberman (Connecticut) and Reverend Alfred Sharpton.

In recent elections, presidential candidates have begun their campaigns more than a year before the first caucuses and primaries. The media, public opinion polls and fundraising test a candidate's popularity long before any votes are cast. Therefore, candidates must get their message out and attract new supporters early in the process. They also need to maintain their momentum and continue to bring in funds through the lengthy election cycle: the primaries, the political conventions and the general campaign.

Another reason getting off to a fast start is crucial is the increasingly early scheduling of primaries and caucuses, a phenomenon known as "front-loading." Various states, hoping to play a more decisive role in the process, have scheduled their primaries and caucuses early in 2004. Other states -- Colorado, Kansas, Utah and Washington -- have reacted to this front-loading of the campaign calendar by canceling their primaries altogether in the belief that a late primary will have little impact on the outcome, and choosing instead to save the millions of dollars required to stage an election.

Results from the primaries and caucuses gradually lessen the number of candidates, as some contenders drop out, and determine how many delegates will be pledged to each candidate. The delegates come together at their parties' national convention, held during the summer, where a final selection is made for the presidential and vice presidential nominee, and their policy positions, or "platforms." The Democratic National Convention will take place July 26th -- 29th in Boston, Massachusetts. The Republican National Convention will take place in New York City from August 30th -- September 2nd, the latest a Republican national convention has ever been held.

The financing of campaigns remains an issue of great attention and controversy. The McCain-Feingold Law, recently upheld by the U.S. Supreme

Court, places some restrictions on how money for political campaigns can be raised and spent. Despite these limitations, however, candidates and parties will spend many hundreds of millions of dollars on television and radio advertising, direct voter outreach and so-called "issue ads" promoting political positions on specific issues without endorsing a candidate by name. The federal government also provides funding to help national candidates finance the campaigns for their parties' nominations, but several candidates, including President Bush, Senator Kerry, and Howard Dean, the current Democratic front runner, have opted out of this system, believing they can raise more funds by themselves. This decision will free all three candidates from a \$45 million spending limit, which is imposed on any candidate who receives such public funding. All three candidates believe they can raise larger amounts than \$18.8 million in public subsidies through the nominating conventions for their campaign.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

At the general election on November 2 voters across the country cast their votes for president. But a nationwide popular vote does not determine the winner. In actuality, voters have selected a slate of "electors" to the Electoral College, a system written into the U.S. Constitution by the Founding Fathers. In all states except Maine and Nebraska, the party that wins the popular vote commits all of its electors -- each state is entitled to as many electors as it has U.S. senators and representatives in Congress -- to the winning candidate.

On December 13, 2004 the electors will meet and vote for president and vice president. The two-party electoral system of Democrats and Republicans requires an absolute majority of the 50 states or 270 electoral votes, since there are 538 total electoral votes. The votes are certified by state authorities and sent to Washington, D.C. where on January 6, 2005, the votes will be counted by the president of the Senate, with the full Senate and House of Representatives in attendance. At that time, the candidate officially becomes the winner and president-elect.

The inauguration of the new president takes place at noon on January 20, 2005, ending an election process that began nearly two years before.